

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, August 28. 1708.

AND what will the *French* do next, say our busie Enquirers now, if the Duke of *Savoy* should break into *Dauphiné*, while he has such an Army with him, and they are so inferiour to him; he may do what he pleases, he may ravage from *Lyons* to *Thoulon*, he may cut off *Dauphiné* and *Provence*, open the Door into *Languedoc*, and put Arms into the Hands of the *Cevennois*, and where are we then? Then *France* comes down all at once, and the great Monarch must account for all the Blood he has shed to gratifie his Cruelty and Ambition.

Thus we run away with things afore-hand, and make nothing of Conquering whole Provinces on the least Advantage, but *Soft and Fair*; the Duke of *Savoy* has

done Wonders (to speak *a la modern*) to trick the *Mareschal De Villars*, and cut him off from the *Passes*; and if now he can carry the Forts of *Exilles* and *Fenestrelles*, and thereby lock up the Passages out of *Dauphiné* into his own Country, he does a very great Piece of Work, and I should think that and laying some Part of *Dauphiné* under Contribution, a very good Summers Work; as much more as you will, but I would be far from complaining if we get that.

But it is worth while to enquire, what makes the *French* so low every where, how comes it that they are so out-number'd on all sides? The Duke of *Savoy* superiour, the Elector of *Hannover* superiour, and the Duke of *Marlborough* superiour? this is not according

according to the ordinary Rate of Things. —But the Reason is plain, the numerous Garrisons he maintains in *Flanders*, and the Pains taken to appear superiour there this Year, has made him leave himself open on the side of *Savoy*, as a Place he did not expect to be so hard press'd in— Again, the Numbers of Men detach'd into *Spain*, here, including Garrisons, the *French* have at this Time above 50000 Men scatter'd about in *Valencia*, *Andalusia*, *Aragon*, *Roussillon*, *Catalognia*, and on the Frontiers of *Portugal*. This has dreyn'd the *French* Armies, and expos'd them to the Insults of the Duke of *Savoy*, and the Opportunity is very promising ; the *French* have not one Part of their Affairs, from whence they can send the *Mareschal De Villars* any Relief ; the *Elect*or of *Bavaria*, they say, has sent him a Detachment of 8000 Men, and it is the only Relief he must expect——It is true, that there are Forces left in *Provence*, which when they see to what Part the Duke of *Savoy* will fix, they may draw out, and perhaps 12000 Men may be brought that way ; but if these are not sufficient, or the *Mareschal De Villars* should receive any Blow, the Troops in *Catalognia* and *Roussillon* must march ; as it is evident from the Affair of *Tboulon*, when the Duke of *Berwick* was order'd with 8000 Men out of *Catalognia* to reinforce the *Mareschal De Theffe*. Thus pushing *France* upon her own Frontiers, it is the only way to relieve those remote Parts, where *France* has the Advantage of us, and will effectually oblige her to recall her Troops from pushing foreign Conquests, to defend her own.

But O the *Rhine*, the *Rhine* ! What a strange and unaccountable Thing is this Army upon the *Rhine*, an Army with neither Legs nor Hands, for so is an Army

without Pay, without Money, and without Magazines ; they can neither march nor act. —The little Effort the *Elect*or of *Hannover* had made towards the *Upper Alsace*, is found impracticable ; and Count *Mercy* is coming back again ; the *French* are at least equal to them, tho' a Detachment is made to *Dauphiné*, and nothing is to be expected there. Infatuated *Germans* ! that are pursuing your Quarrels with the Pope, and securing your Footing in *Italy*, but neglect the pulling down your Capital Enemy, the Rival of all your Glories ; that has dispossest you of so many Towns and Countries, beaten you in so many Battles, so often insulted your Provinces, ravaged your Frontiers, and laid whole Circles under Contribution.

Well, we are to expect little there. But in *Flanders* the Sum of the Matter is to be try'd, if ever *France* can make a Stand against the Confederate Army, it must be now ; 60000 Men, they say, is the utmost the Duke of *Marlborough* can spare to cover the Siege of *Lisle*, the Garrison is numerous, the Circumference large, and less than 40000 Men cannot carry on that Siege.

If then the Numbers the *French* have told us of, have any thing of Truth in them, they may in conjunction with the Duke of *Berwick* bring 80000 Men into the Field, and would they do that, I should not be sorry to hear, they were heartily engaged on the fair Field ; for tho' the Superiority is large, and the Odds of 20000 Men very great, yet if we are not too much flatter'd in the Matter of Troops, and partial to ourselves, we should hope, the Duke of *Marlborough* with 60000 Men would be able to deal with them in the Field, and give a very good Account of them.

MISCELLANEA.

Here follows the several Answers of the Ministers, as they were brought before the Magistrates, and the Magistrates Sentence thereupon.

2d. March, 1708.

Mr. *George Grabame* Defendant present, and examin'd anent the Libel, judicially acknowledg'd he keeps an House in *Edinburgh*, wherein he exercises publick Prayers, and allows all to be present who have any mind to come, and that he reads Prayers in the Service Book, where her Majesty's Name *Queen ANNE* is express'd, but does not read her Name, neither does he pray for Her, nor keep Fasts and Thanksgiving-Days, except when they fall upon the Praying Days; and acknowledg'd, he is not qualified conform to Law by taking the Oath of Allegiance, and subscribing the same with the Assurance to her Majesty *Queen ANNE*.

Mr. *Robert Cheyne* Defendant present, refus'd to answer to the Libel presently, but crav'd to be allow'd to see the same, and to have a Double thereof, and time to answer thereto; the Magistrates allow'd the said Defendant to see and answer the Libel against the Morrow Morning at 9 a Clock, and to have an Double of the Libel for that End.

Mr. *George Purves* Defendant present, and examin'd anent the Libel, judicially acknowledg'd he keeps an Meeting-House in *Edinburgh*, and there preaches and prays, and in his Prayers he prays for her present Majesty *Queen ANNE*, by expressing her Name, and prays also for the whole Royal Family, and that he is not qualified conform to Law by taking the Oath of Allegiance, and subscribing the same with the Assurance to her Majesty *Queen ANNE*, acknowledg'd, he did not keep the last Fast in *January* last, because the rest of his Brethren did not keep it, and he desir'd not to be singular.

Mr. *Robert Steen* Defendant present, and examin'd anent the Libel, refus'd to answer thereto presently, but crav'd to be allow'd to see the Libel, and have an Double thereof, and a Time to answer thereto, the Magistrates allow'd the said Defendant to see and answer the Libel against the Morrow Morning at 9 a Clock, and to have an Double of the Libel for that end.

3d. March, 1708.

Mr. *Robert Cheyne*, and Mr. *Robert Steen*, Defendants present, gave in an *Memorandum* containing dilatory Defences against the Libel, which were read, and the Magistrates allow'd the Defendants until *Friday* next at 10 of the Clock Forenoon, to answer the Libel.

4th. March, 1708.

Mr. *Geo. Bartley* Defendant present, and examin'd anent the Libel, judicially acknowledg'd, he is in use to pray for her present Majesty *Queen ANNE*, and sometimes expresses her Name, and that he is not qualified according to Law by taking the Oath of Allegiance, and subscribing the same with the Assurance; declar'd he did not keep the last Fast in *January* last, but that he would have kept the same if he had been desir'd so to do: And being interrogate, if he would yet qualify himself, declar'd, that hitherto he had given no just Ground of Jealousie to the Government, and desir'd he may not be troubled on that Account.

Mr. *David Ranken* Defendant present, and examin'd anent the Libel, refus'd to answer thereto, in Regard that he and several others had appointed Mr. *William Abercrombie* Defendant, to crave an Delay and an competent Time to answer thereto. Thereafter Mr. *William Abercrombie* and others being present, Mr. *Abercrombie* in Name of said Defendants, and in the Name of Mr. *George Hendrey* and Mr. *Da.*